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DISPATCH NO. [REDACTED] - 1403

Copy No. 1 of 5

24 January 1958

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TO : [REDACTED]

25X1A6b

FROM: [REDACTED]

SUBJ: General - Administrative/Logistics/Security

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Specific - Transport of Personally Owned Household Effects
on [REDACTED] C-54

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REF : [REDACTED] 6810

1. As outlined in reference message and in associated correspondence household effects shipped to this station are received at the port indicated. Prior to delivery to the owner they pass thru a time consuming and frustrating local customs procedure ensnared in administrative red tape. Effects which arrive at the base other than via the port (direct airlift) do not go thru this customs procedure despite the fact that by indigenous regulations they should do so. The practice of bringing in various articles of furniture, particularly radios and Hi-Fi sets, is one in which all the personnel on this base engage and as far as can be ascertained the individuals do not attempt to declare them locally. This is a situation which existed prior to our arrival here and has no direct bearing on our C-54 trips. From pieces of information received from the Base Transportation officer as well as the legal officer the local customs people are aware of this but do not take any action to prevent it or even have a man on base to observe it but content themselves with an occasional remark to the effect that these personnel will not be permitted to ship out of the country any article of furniture other than those manifested and officially stamped on the customs declaration. And therein lies the problem which is presented below and our recommended solution.

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2. On the 7 January 1958 trip of the [REDACTED] C-54 from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] a total of 1,788 pounds of personally owned household goods, the effects of [REDACTED] arrived on the base without the blessings of customs. As mentioned above this incident was not without precedent nor did it create any immediate problem. The problem is a future one - namely how to ship out the effects at the end of tour without the necessity of customs procedures. In addition to [REDACTED] effects the majority of the [REDACTED] have purchased combination Radio-Hi-Fi sets in [REDACTED] and transported them in via the C-54. These pieces weigh approximately 150 pounds.

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3. Upon noting the shipments above discreet inquiries were made by the Administrative officer of the base legal officer as to the correct course of action. It was the latter's advice (naturally unofficial) to not approach local customs on the matter since this would point out the fact that this had been done and would create hitherto inevident interest in the goings and comings of our aircraft. He further felt that it might have the effect of drawing attention to the fact that this is the only base in the country where incoming cargo aircraft do not have to formally declare and have cleared all cargo. In short this base enjoys a tenuous immunity from the red tape present elsewhere and a revelation of the above shipment(s) might well draw attention not only to this Detachment but to all other activities on the base and all aircraft movement. The Base Transportation officer while feeling that all pieces of furniture should be declared none the less indicated that the problem of clearing HHE thru customs is becoming more involved every day.

4. The effect of all this is simply that not having declared the articles of furniture to be here the individual theoretically cannot carry them out (if they attempt to do so thru the port) The only alternatives, should such a situation prevail, would be to sell the article to another American or to just leave it - neither very desirable.

5. It is recommended that those individuals who are here PCS and therefore have been authorized to ship household effects be permitted to use normal project supply channels to return such items at the end of tour. The weights in such cases would not be great since the Detachment dependent housing is government furnished and it would affect at the most not more than twenty (20) personnel. [REDACTED] case is of course a special one due to his having resided in Europe prior to coming here. Incidentally he has been told, if asked, to explain to any question that his household effects are government furnished which would explain why they were not processed thru customs. Actually it is not expected that the question will be raised.

6. All above is written as a sort of memo for the record so that at completion of tours a decision will be made to enable shipments of such effects as suggested. Headquarters comments on recommendation are requested.

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